

**SCHAUMBURG, IL** – In honor of ***National Small Business Week***, today Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08), announced that she has co-sponsored legislation to help America's small business owners afford health insurance for their families and their employees.

The Equity for Our Nation's Self-Employed Act (H.R. 4961) would allow small business owners to deduct health care costs from their payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare). The average self-employed individual pays \$10,880 annually for health care coverage and would save \$1,664 through this tax deduction.

Current law allows small business owners to deduct health insurance costs from their individual federal income taxes. Self-employed workers pay a 15.3 percent payroll tax on top of their individual income tax. Allowing them to deduct their health insurance costs from their payroll taxes would effectively reduce those costs by more than 15 percent.

As a former small business owner, member of the House Small Business Committee and long-time champion of the rights of small business owners, Bean's co-sponsorship of HR 4961 is consistent with her longtime support for leveling the playing field for small businesses. The bill makes tax policy fairer for the self-employed, because corporations are already able to deduct their health care expenses from all their taxes. The legislation is strongly supported by a coalition of small business groups.

***National Small Business Week*** is sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration to recognize and celebrate the contributions, accomplishments and challenges of the nation's small businesses.

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